



Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission held a meeting on 7-19-2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Alumni Room of the Park River Area High School, 704 5th St W, Park River, ND. 58270

Attending: Sarah Johnston Denise Bata, Gary Seboe, Bergit Sobak, Agatha Frisby, Dennis Markusen, Tracy Laaveg, coordinator. And Loren Ellingson, guest

Absent: Shannon Brazil, Dick Geiger

Chair Frisby called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Regular Meeting:

The minutes from the 4-19-23 regular meeting and 3-7-23 strategic planning were approved on a motion from Dennis seconded by Denise. Financial report was reviewed and approved. There is currently \$223.13 in the checkbook.

2022-23 Grant – no reimbursements submitted yet.

2023-24 Grant – No reimbursements submitted yet.

Projects:

Administration:

- 2023-24 Grant application was approved. Projects have gotten started.
- We discussed the history person nomination. As the deadline to submit the application had passed, we will consider persons for next year's award. Jon McMillan's name was mentioned.

Brochures: Brochures are available upon request and continue to be distributed. We do have 2200 on hand with ND Tourism for the rack program and several hundred are available through WCHPC and PCHPC. There are no plans to reprint at the moment.

Geocaching: Chad Thorvilson continues to maintain and service the existing Caches. Cache listings were reviewed, and questions were posed regarding Garfield cemetery. New sites are being sought. Permission forms were distributed to members to assist with securing new sites.

Member Ed:



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- Walsh county Fair – plans are to have a booth again this year. Planning details will commence soon. We will look into whether we can implement a sign up sheet on the website.
 - Sauter school – plans are to demolish the school as the grounds are being sold. Agatha has been in touch with township supervisor Ron Pishtek to help with salvage and planning a memorial (which will include a geocache site and possibly a sign through the state monument signage program). Alumni are interested in collecting memories/ memorabilia and establishing a booklet, as well as developing a monument. Tracy has started the interviews.
 - St Catherine’s Lomice – at the annual picnic, Agatha gave a presentation about the history of the location that was well received. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of utilizing an outdoor speaker or karaoke machine to help with projecting speakers’ voices. Members will consider options.
 - Arts across the prairie – a site, artist, and plan have been selected and plans are to commence installation soon. Site work is step 1 and has been started. The goal is to get the installation completed by next summer.
 - WCTU fountain – plans are still in place to continue to work on restoration. We have an estimated cost of \$300,000 and have raised \$60,000. Fundraising continues. Presentations were made at the Aggie Alumni banquet in Park River and a meal was served at the PR Farmers Market. Another meal will be served at the Jim’s Super Valu outdoor produce sale later this month. Plans are the send out solicitation letters and make visits with potential donors to secure larger gifts. Amy Stromsodt with ND Community Foundation will assist with these visits and has helped develop the letters.

Oral History Project: Interviews are being sought. Members were encouraged to arrange interviews, and some are being arranged. Some potential interviewees would like to write out their memories rather than be interviewed. Ideas were brainstormed.

Website: no report

Strategic planning:

- Ordinance review – no report
- Exposure/Marketing – Shannon has started working on banner and marketing ideas, but was not present to give a report



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- Geocaching – no report – permission forms were given to members for distribution to possible new sites.

New business: none

October

Next Meeting: Wednesday, ~~July~~ 18th at 7 pm at Park River Area School Alumni Room – may be changed due to the timing of the walsh county fair.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Laaveg, Coordinator